



Arizona State Board of Nursing

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An advisory opinion adopted by AZBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of AZBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training, and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and or decrease risk.

OPINION: Electrophysiology Related
Procedures by RNs
DATE APPROVED: 9/21/05
REVISED DATE: 9/08, 9/11
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Within the Scope of Practice X RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION CARDIAC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY RELATED PROCEDURES BY REGISTERED NURSES

It is within the scope of a Registered Nurse (RN), in the immediate presence of qualified Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP), to assist to insert cardiac catheters including central arterial/venous access catheters, perform cardiac catheter manipulation and services that support electrophysiology studies and ablation procedures when the LIP is present but unable to perform those functions, if the following requirements are met.

“Extra pair of hands” means a nurse is following the guidance of a LIP that is performing direct supervision of the nurse and is not expanding their scope of practice. The nurse is acting as an extra pair of hands and is not acting independently or making determinations.

It is not within the scope of a Registered Nurse to access/engage/or manipulate the catheter within the coronary artery.

In no event should a Registered Nurse be expected to replace or assume the responsibilities of the qualified LIP performing the given procedure.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policies and procedures are maintained by the agency/employer.
- B. Documentation is on file of the RN satisfactorily completing:
 1. An EKG course which includes 12 lead interpretations.
 2. Current certification_Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).
 3. Current certification_Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) if studies are conducted on children.
 4. Concepts in perioperative nursing, including sterile technique.
 5. Pharmacology instruction with cardiac drug emphasis.
 6. Instructional program on intra-cardio echocardiogram.
 7. An instructional program in electrophysiology which includes participating in ablation procedures with supervised clinical practice.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION on electrophysiology procedures is to include but not limited to:

- A. Anatomy and physiology related to the vascular system/cardiac system.
- B. Insertion techniques specific to insertion devices.
- C. Potential complications and management techniques.
- D. Nursing care responsibilities.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. At the end of 3 years, it is recommended that a Registered Nurse will seek national certification in Electrophysiology through International Board of Heart Rhythm Examiners (IBHRE).

III. RATIONALE

It is recognized that an RN who has satisfactorily completed an instructional program/supervised clinical practice in specific electrophysiology studies, and has met the general requirements, can safely provide care to patients undergoing electrophysiology studies. Such care includes but is not limited to assessing patients, providing patient and family education. The RN may manipulate cardiac catheters, and assist physicians in procedures such as pacemaker placement, automatic implantable cardiac defibrillators (AICD), angiograms, ablations, and other electrophysiology studies, when the qualified LIP is in the immediate presence and directly supervising the nurse.

IV. REFERENCES

Kentucky State Board of Nursing. (2005). Role of Registered Nurses in Invasive Cardiac Procedures. Retrieved from www.kbn.ky.gov/practice/aos.htm

North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology (NASPE), Standards of Professional Practice for the Allied Professional in Pacing and Electrophysiology, January 2003 (now known as Heart Rhythm Society)

NASPE position statement, NASPE policy statement of catheter ablation: Personnel, policy, procedures, and therapeutic recommendations, March 2003

International Board of Heart Rhythm Examiners. (n.d.). Retrieved August 30, 2011, from www.ibhre.org

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Advisory opinions: Nebraska Board of Nursing, "Extra-Pair of Hands" Concept (2000). Retrieved August 14, 2011 from www.hhs.state.ne.us/crl/nursing/rn-lpn/advisory.htm#EXTRA